

honors program carried out under subsection (c)(1) and not less frequently than once every three years thereafter for the duration of the pilot program, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the findings of the Secretary with respect to the pilot program.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The findings of the Secretary with respect to the feasibility and advisability of establishing a competitive honors program as described in subsection (a).

(B) Such recommendations as the Secretary may have for legislative or administrative action to improve recruitment and retention of staff at the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

SEC. 103. REPORT ON IMPROVING ACCESS TO BOARD OF VETERANS' APPEALS TELEHEARINGS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on improving access to hearings before the Board of Veterans' Appeals held by picture and voice transmission.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Recommendations on the feasibility and advisability of reimbursing veterans for expenses incurred for travel from the home of a veteran to the location at which a hearing before the Board of Veterans' Appeals is held by picture and voice transmission, if the Secretary determines that travel to such location is reasonably necessary for such a hearing;

(2) Recommendations on establishment of pilot programs to assess the feasibility and advisability of using other methods that could improve veteran access to hearings before the Board of Veterans' Appeals held by picture and voice transmission from a veteran's home.

(3) Such other recommendations to improve access to hearings before the Board of Veterans' Appeals held by picture and voice transmission as the Secretary may receive from stakeholders.

TITLE II—MEDICAL DISABILITY EXAM MATTERS

SEC. 201. IMPROVING REQUIREMENT TO PUBLISH DISABILITY BENEFIT QUESTIONNAIRE FORMS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Section 5101(d) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “; and” and inserting “, including (except as provided in paragraph (4)(A))—

“(i) all disability benefit questionnaire forms available to personnel of the Veterans Health Administration and contracted personnel for the completion of compensation and pension examinations; and

“(ii) all factsheets available to such personnel to inform completion of such examinations; and”;

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4)(A) The Secretary may exclude from publication under clauses (i) and (ii) of paragraph (1)(A) any form described in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph that the Secretary determines could not reasonably be completed to a clinically acceptable standard by someone not an employee or a contractor of the Department.

“(B) A form described in this subparagraph is a form that—

“(i) was in effect after January 1, 2020; and

“(ii) has not been published under paragraph (1).

“(C) For each form excluded under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall—

“(i) list the form on the same internet website as the forms published under paragraph (1)(A) with an indication that the form has been excluded; and

“(ii) provide with such listing a justification for such exclusion.”.

SEC. 202. REPORT ON IMPROVING MEDICAL DISABILITY EXAMINATIONS FOR VETERANS WHO LIVE ABROAD.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the efforts of the Secretary to provide reimbursement for a veteran's travel to a Department facility or a facility of a Department-contracted provider, regardless of whether the facility is inside or outside the United States, when such travel is incident to a scheduled compensation and pension examination.

SEC. 203. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS REQUIREMENT BY CONTRACTORS PROVIDING COVERED MEDICAL DISABILITY EXAMINATIONS WITH PERSONS RECOGNIZED BY POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PREPARATION, PRESENTATION, AND PROSECUTION OF CLAIMS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In each contract entered into by the Secretary after the date of the enactment of this Act for the provision by a contractor of a covered medical disability examination, the Secretary shall include a requirement that every communication from a contractor to a veteran regarding the scheduling of a covered medical disability examination be contemporaneously transmitted to the person recognized by a power of attorney executed under sections 5902, 5903, and 5904 of title 38, United States Code, for the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims.

(b) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “covered medical disability examination” means a medical examination that the Secretary determines necessary for the purposes of adjudicating a benefit under chapter 11 or 15 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 204. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTREACH REGARDING CONTACT INFORMATION FOR CONTRACTORS PROVIDING COVERED MEDICAL DISABILITY EXAMINATIONS.

Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, in partnership with veterans service organizations and such other stakeholders as the Secretary considers relevant and appropriate, implement an informative outreach program for veterans regarding the following:

(1) Contact information for contractors providing covered medical disability examinations, including the telephone numbers from which such contractors may contact veterans.

(2) The requirement for veterans to provide personally identifiable information when contacted by such contractors in order to verify their identity.

TITLE III—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 301. REPORT ON SUPPORTING GOVERNMENTAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS.

(a) **REPORT.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and after consulting veterans service organizations and such other stakeholders as the Secretary considers relevant and appropriate, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the

Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on improving the support by the Department of Veterans Affairs of governmental veterans service officers.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The report submitted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) **ENHANCED ACCESS TO SYSTEMS.**—An assessment of the feasibility and current technical limitations of providing governmental veterans service officers enhanced access to certain Department systems to better serve veterans those governmental service officers may not have authorization to represent.

(2) **INTERGOVERNMENTAL LIAISONS.**—An assessment as to whether the Department would benefit from the establishment or designation of an office or working group within the Department to serve as an intergovernmental liaison between the Department and governmental veterans service officers.

(3) **OTHER.**—Any other recommendations to improve how the Department monitors, coordinates with, or provides support to governmental veterans service officers.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **GOVERNMENTAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER.**—The term “governmental veterans service officer” means an employee of a State, county, municipal, or Tribal government—

(A) who is accredited by at least one veterans service organization to serve as a veterans service officer; and

(B) whose primary responsibilities include working as such an officer.

(2) **VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION.**—The term “veterans service organization” means an organization recognized by the Secretary for the representation of veterans under section 5902 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 302. FACILITATING DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CONTRACTOR ACCESS TO FEDERAL TAX RETURN INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR CLAIMS PROCESSING.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 6103(1)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E) **REDISCLOSEURES.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Officers and employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs who are specifically designated by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may redisclose return information described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) to contractors of such Department administering (or assisting in administering) a program listed in subparagraph (D)(viii).

“(ii) **RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF INFORMATION.**—Information disclosed under this subparagraph shall be disclosed only for purposes of, and to the extent necessary in, determining eligibility for, or the correct amount of, benefits under a program listed in subparagraph (D)(viii).”.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 6103(a)(3) of such Code is amended by inserting “(7)(E),” after “(6),”.

(c) **SAFEGUARDS.**—Section 6103(p)(4) of such Code is amended by striking “subsection (1)(10)” each place it appears and inserting “subsection (1)(7), (10)”.

SA 6551. Mr. KELLY (for Mr. BARASSO (for himself and Ms. SMITH)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 4978, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the State offices of rural health program; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “State Offices of Rural Health Program Reauthorization Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. STATE OFFICES OF RURAL HEALTH.

Section 338J(i)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254r(i)(1)) is amended by striking “fiscal years 2018 through 2022” and inserting “fiscal years 2023 through 2027”.

SA 6552. Mr. LEAHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2617, to amend section 1115 of title 31, United States Code, to amend the description of how performance goals are achieved, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the House in Senate amendment 4, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023”.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.
- Sec. 3. References.
- Sec. 4. Explanatory statement.
- Sec. 5. Statement of appropriations.
- Sec. 6. Adjustments to compensation.

DIVISION A—AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2023

Title I—Agricultural Programs
Title II—Farm Production and Conservation Programs

Title III—Rural Development Programs

Title IV—Domestic Food Programs

Title V—Foreign Assistance and Related Programs

Title VI—Related Agency and Food and Drug Administration

Title VII—General Provisions

DIVISION B—COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2023

Title I—Department of Commerce

Title II—Department of Justice

Title III—Science

Title IV—Related Agencies

Title V—General Provisions

DIVISION C—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2023

Title I—Military Personnel

Title II—Operation and Maintenance

Title III—Procurement

Title IV—Research, Development, Test and Evaluation

Title V—Revolving and Management Funds

Title VI—Other Department of Defense Programs

Title VII—Related Agencies

Title VIII—General Provisions

DIVISION D—ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2023

Title I—Corps of Engineers—Civil

Title II—Department of the Interior

Title III—Department of Energy

Title IV—Independent Agencies

Title V—General Provisions

DIVISION E—FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2023

Title I—Department of the Treasury

Title II—Executive Office of the President and Funds Appropriated to the President

Title III—The Judiciary

Title IV—District of Columbia

Title V—Independent Agencies

Title VI—General Provisions—This Act

Title VII—General Provisions—Government-wide

Title VIII—General Provisions—District of Columbia

DIVISION F—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2023

Title I—Departmental Management, Intelligence, Situational Awareness, and Oversight

Title II—Security, Enforcement, and Investigations

Title III—Protection, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery

Title IV—Research, Development, Training, and Services

Title V—General Provisions

DIVISION G—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2023

Title I—Department of the Interior

Title II—Environmental Protection Agency

Title III—Related Agencies

Title IV—General Provisions

DIVISION H—DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2023

Title I—Department of Labor

Title II—Department of Health and Human Services

Title III—Department of Education

Title IV—Related Agencies

Title V—General Provisions

DIVISION I—LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2023

Title I—Legislative Branch

Title II—General Provisions

DIVISION J—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2023

Title I—Department of Defense

Title II—Department of Veterans Affairs

Title III—Related Agencies

Title IV—General Provisions

DIVISION K—DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2023

Title I—Department of State and Related Agency

Title II—United States Agency for International Development

Title III—Bilateral Economic Assistance

Title IV—International Security Assistance

Title V—Multilateral Assistance

Title VI—Export and Investment Assistance

Title VII—General Provisions

DIVISION L—TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2023

Title I—Department of Transportation

Title II—Department of Housing and Urban Development

Title III—Related Agencies

Title IV—General Provisions—This Act

DIVISION M—ADDITIONAL UKRAINE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2023**DIVISION N—DISASTER RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2023****DIVISION O—EXTENDERS AND TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS**

Title I—National Cybersecurity Protection System Authorization Extension

Title II—NDAA Technical Corrections

Title III—Immigration Extensions

Title IV—Environment and Public Works Matters

Title V—Safety Enhancements

Title VI—Extension of Temporary Order for Fentanyl-Related Substances

Title VII—Federal Trade Commission Oversight of Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority

Title VIII—United States Parole Commission Extension

Title IX—Extension of FCC Auction Authority

Title X—Budgetary Effects

DIVISION P—ELECTORAL COUNT REFORM AND PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION IMPROVEMENT**DIVISION Q—AVIATION RELATED MATTERS****DIVISION R—NO TIKTOK ON GOVERNMENT DEVICES****DIVISION S—OCEANS RELATED MATTERS****DIVISION T—SECURE 2.0 ACT OF 2022****DIVISION U—JOSEPH MAXWELL CLELAND AND ROBERT JOSEPH DOLE MEMORIAL VETERANS BENEFITS AND HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2022****DIVISION V—STRONG VETERANS ACT OF 2022****DIVISION W—UNLEASHING AMERICAN INNOVATORS ACT OF 2022****DIVISION X—EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION FOR SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING VICTIMS' FUND****DIVISION Y—CONTRACT ACT OF 2022****DIVISION Z—COVS ACT****DIVISION AA—FINANCIAL SERVICES MATTERS****DIVISION BB—CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE****DIVISION CC—WATER RELATED MATTERS****DIVISION DD—PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT****DIVISION EE—POST OFFICE DESIGNATIONS****DIVISION FF—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES****DIVISION GG—MERGER FILING FEE MODERNIZATION****DIVISION HH—AGRICULTURE****DIVISION JJ—NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALES****SEC. 3. REFERENCES.**

Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to “this Act” contained in any division of this Act shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

SEC. 4. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT.

The explanatory statement regarding this Act, printed in the Senate section of the Congressional Record on or about December 19, 2022, and submitted by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, shall have the same effect with respect to the allocation of funds and implementation of divisions A through L of this Act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a committee of conference.

SEC. 5. STATEMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS.

The following sums in this Act are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023.

SEC. 6. ADJUSTMENTS TO COMPENSATION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no adjustment shall be made under section 601(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4501) (relating to cost of living adjustments for Members of Congress) during fiscal year 2023.